



1996

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**WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
IN BRIEF**

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# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Capital city	Perth, founded 12 August 1829				
Time	Western Standard Time, eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time				
Approximate distances by air from Perth to other capital cities in Australia (kilometres)					
Canberra	3,300	Brisbane	4,100	Hobart	3,400
Sydney	3,400	Adelaide	2,200	Darwin	2,900
Melbourne	2,800				

Population		1993	1994	1995
Estimated resident population (E.R.P.) at 30 June —				
Western Australia —				
Males	'000	842.4	855.0	869.7
Females	"	833.9	846.9	862.0
Persons	"	1 676.3	1 701.1	1 731.7
Perth Statistical Division	"	12 221.2	1 238.8	1 262.7
Rest of State	"	455.2	462.3	469.0
Census of Population, 30 June		1981	1986	1991
Age groups (proportion of population) —				
Under 15 years	per cent	26.0	24.2	23.6
15-19 years	"	8.9	8.6	7.8
20-59 years	"	53.0	54.0	54.9
60-64 years	"	3.4	3.9	3.9
65 years and over	"	8.7	9.3	9.9
Birthplace (proportion of population) —				
Australia	per cent	71.5	70.9	69.2
Europe —				
UK and Ireland	"	14.6	13.8	13.6
Italy	"	2.3	2.0	1.7
Other	"	4.4	4.3	4.2
Asia	"	3.0	3.6	4.7
New Zealand	"	1.5	1.8	2.2
Other	"	2.8	3.7	4.4
Major urban centres —				
Albany	No. of	15 222	16 316	18 826
Bunbury	"	21 749	23 031	24 003
Geraldton	"	20 895	21 726	24 361
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	"	19 848	22 232	25 016
Mandurah	"	10 978	14 699	23 343
Perth	"	809 035	883 718	1 018 702
Port Hedland	"	12 948	13 069	11 344
Vital statistics		1992	1993	1994
Births	No.	25 073	25 081	25 138
Deaths	"	9 898	10 316	10 293
Marriages	"	10 118	10 382	10 366
Divorces	"	4 540	4 654	5 024

<b>Vital statistics (continued)</b>		<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>
Rate per 1,000 mean E.R.P. —				
Births		15.1	15.0	14.8
Deaths		6.0	6.2	6.1
Marriages		6.1	6.2	6.1
Divorces		2.7	2.8	3.0
Rate per 1,000 live births —				
Infant deaths		6.8	5.7	5.6
Principal causes of death (rate per 100,000 mean E.R.P.) —				
Ischaemic heart disease		142.4	148.7	141.7
Malignant neoplasms		159.4	167.1	167.4
Cerebrovascular diseases		57.9	58.0	61.0
Expectation of life —				
Males	Years	75.24	75.05	75.55
Females	"	80.90	81.15	81.18

<b>Education</b>		<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>
Government —				
Pre-school centres	No.	116	113	110
Pre-primary centres	"	533	558	554
Schools	"	761	767	768
Students, full time	"	221 034	222 451	223 105
Non-government —				
Pre-primary centres	"	155	174	190
Schools	"	250	249	251
Students	"	72 552	74 288	76 306

<b>Welfare services</b>		<b>1990-91</b>	<b>1991-92</b>	<b>1992-93</b>
Pensioners at 30 June —				
Age	No.	109 252	117 434	124 762
Invalid	"	42 352	44 783	47 790
Class B Widows	"	6 026	5 816	5 545
Sole parent	"	26 645	28 097	29 874
Job Search/New Start Allowance (a)	"	51 438	81 691	79 903
Reparation benefits at 30 June (excluding Act of Grace pensions) —				
Veterans disability and service pensions	"	34 273	33 909	33 699
Dependants	"	30 506	29 960	29 384

<b>Average weekly earnings (at May)</b>		<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
Males	\$	517.60	522.70	556.60
Females	"	364.70	384.70	403.90
Persons	"	496.10	507.70	539.90

<b>Housing finance for owner occupation</b>		<b>1992-93</b>	<b>1993-94</b>	<b>1994-95</b>
Secured finance commitments to individuals for -				
Construction of dwellings	\$m	1 024.1	1 405.2	1 206.2
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	"	115.2	160.9	120.6
Purchase of established dwellings (b)	"	3 198.0	4 691.9	4 702.1
Alterations and additions	"	176.8	265.6	284.7

<b>State production account</b>		<b>1992-93</b>	<b>1993-94</b>	<b>1994-95</b>
Expenditure —				
Final consumption expenditure —				
Private	\$m	23 107	24 801	26 575
Government	"	6 509	6 901	7 111
Gross fixed capital expenditure —				
Private	"	8 633	9 628	11 259
Public	"	1 972	1 675	1 562
Income —				
Wages salaries and supplements	\$m	18 816	20 522	20 860
Gross operating surplus	"	19 062	19 885	21 114
Indirect taxes less subsidies	"	4 336	4 964	5 309
Gross State product (GSP(l))	"	42 214	45 371	47 283

<b>Average retail prices of food</b>		<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
Perth December quarter —		(cents)	(cents)	(cents)
Milk carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	105	106	116
Cheese, processed, sliced wrapped	500 g	338	334	344
Butter	"	166	162	193
Bread, white loaf, sliced	680 g	147	150	166
Rump steak	1 kg	1 003	1 077	1 101
Silverside, corned	"	700	731	678
Lamb, leg	"	557	516	554
Chicken, frozen	"	327	312	329
Bacon, middle rashers	250 g pkt	317	309	318
Sausages	"	355	413	411
Potatoes	1 kg	107	122	120
Tomatoes	"	297	263	282
Eggs (c)	50 g 1 doz	196	192	217
Sugar, white	2 kg	227	211	220
Tea	250 g	183	173	186
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	406	521	577
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500 g	147	154	172

Labour force (at August)		1993	1994	1995
Employed persons —	000	786.5	793.7	826.2
Males	"	468.0	462.5	474.7
Females	"	318.5	331.2	351.5
Unemployed persons —	"	77.5	67.0	60.3
Males	"	45.8	39.7	33.7
Females	"	31.7	27.3	26.6
Total labour force	"	864.0	860.7	886.6
Unemployment rate —	per cent	9.0	7.8	6.8
Males	"	8.9	7.9	6.6
Females	"	9.1	7.6	7.0

Industry of employed persons (at May)		1994	1995
Agriculture, forestry etc.	000	48.9	51.0
Mining	"	32.9	26.7
Manufacturing	"	82.1	85.9
Electricity, gas & water	"	9.6	10.0
Construction	"	68.1	68.5
Wholesale and retail trade	"	155.3	163.1
Accommodation, cafe & restaurant	"	35.0	37.8
Transport and storage	"	38.9	34.4
Communication	"	11.3	11.9
Finance, insur. prop & bus	"	103.9	112.1
Govt admin & defence	"	29.1	35.3
Education	"	58.4	61.1
Health & community services	"	70.1	73.6
Culture, rec & personal	"	50.1	55.0

State government finance		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Current outlays —	\$m	6 045	6 144	6 359
General government final consumption expenditure	"	3 969	4 158	4 189
Interest payments	"	1 153	1 008	1 042
Other current outlays	"	923	978	1 128
Capital outlays —	"	1 430	1 293	1 136
Gross fixed capital expenditure	"	1 411	1 170	1 087
Other capital outlays	"	19	123	51
Revenue & grants received —	"	6 776	7 309	7 571
Taxes, fees and fines	"	2 010	2 376	2 549
Net operating surpluses of public trading enterprises	"	831	863	753
Interest received	"	138	153	204
Grants received	"	3 217	3 292	3 368
Other revenue	"	580	626	714
Financing transactions —	"	699	128	-74
Borrowing (net)	"	774	-45	-36
Other financing transactions	"	-75	172	-38

Price indexes		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Consumer price index, Perth: Base, 1989-90 = 100.0				
Food		108.8	110.0	113.4
Clothing		108.6	108.2	107.4
Housing		87.9	87.3	94.0
Household equipment and operation		107.4	108.2	109.0
Transportation		111.2	114.4	118.9
Tobacco and alcohol		114.0	128.8	131.8
Health and personal care		119.8	123.8	130.4
Recreation and education		106.7	107.7	109.6
All groups		106.2	108.5	112.3
Materials Used in House Building, Perth Base: 1989-90 = 100.0				
		106.9	109.0	112.7
Materials Used in Other Than House Building, Perth Base: 1989-90 = 100.0				
		105.7	107.1	110.1

Retail trade		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Retail turnover of goods (excluding motor vehicles)				
	\$m	8 597	9 363	10 312

Building		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
New residential				
buildings approved	No. of units	18 577	22 479	26 580
New residential				
buildings completed	"	14 916	19 804	21 839
Value of new residential				
buildings approved	\$m	1 218	1 519	1 965
Value of new residential				
buildings completed	"	1 088	1 408	1 655
Total value of buildings approved	"	1 847	2 546	2 782
Total value of buildings completed	"	2 309	2 426	2 542

Mining (source ABARE)		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Persons employed at 30 June				
	'000	21.1	19.5	p18.8
Turnover				
	\$m	10 708	10 576	p10 550.4
Production —				
Iron ore	'000 tonnes	111 643	111 795	119 689
Crude oil	megalitres	7 350	8 693	7 639
Gold	kilograms	182 043	179 632	193 800
Natural gas	million m3	10 496	11 923	13 659
Diamonds	'000 carats	41 424	42 199	39 903

Manufacturing		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Establishments at 30 June				
	No.	3 510	3 645	p3 384
Persons employed at 30 June				
	'000	64.5	62.5	p62.3
Turnover				
	\$m	13 114.6	12 903.0	p13 477.0

<b>Foreign trade</b>		<b>1992-93</b>	<b>1993-94</b>	<b>1994-95</b>
Imports	\$m	4 966	4 792	5 799
Exports	"	14 993	15 660	16 394
Exports to —				
Japan	"	3 945	3 999	4 421
U.K.	"	661	1 180	568
Singapore	"	1 563	1 008	1 134
Imports from —				
Japan	\$m	993	829	1 196
U.S.A.	"	720	934	1 020
United Kingdom	"	283	249	332
Major commodities exported —				
Iron ore	"	2 883	2 765	2 759
Wool	"	606	655	733
Wheat	"	1 143	1 122	1 121
Gold bullion	"	2 711	3 286	2 931
Petroleum & petroleum products	"	967	930	1 544
<b>Agriculture</b>		<b>1991-92</b>	<b>1992-93</b>	<b>1993-94</b>
Gross value of —				
Wheat for grain	\$m	950.3	1 083.8	1 157.0
Wool	"	608.2	604.8	605.7
Livestock slaughtering and other disposals	"	423.9	466.2	545.7
Total agriculture	"	2 632.4	3 114.8	3 365.1
Livestock at 31 March (d) —				
Cattle for —				
Milk	'000	112.9	116.2	123.0
Meat	"	1 536.3	1 532.0	1 682.0
Sheep and lambs	"	34 060.5	32 964.8	31 952.0
Pigs	"	317.8	305.3	312.0
Production —				
Wheat (d)	'000	4 736.0	5 978.9	6 689.0
Wool	"	182.0	180.4	176.4
Beef and veal	"	91.8	100.5	101.8
Mutton and lamb	"	80.0	100.3	86.7
Pigmeat	"	31.0	33.6	32.4
<b>Tourism</b>		<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>
Pertit Airport - major port of clearance —				
Total Arrivals	'000	488 300	545 000	609 800
Total Departures	"	474 400	514 508	581 000
Overseas arrivals (Short term visitor arrivals by country of residence by air) —				
Japan	No. of	19 500	25 600	29 100
Malaysia	"	19 000	23 600	28 500
New Zealand	"	20 500	23 200	25 100
Singapore	"	36 300	44 500	58 100
United Kingdom	"	48 600	52 300	58 200
United States of America	"	7 100	8 600	10 800
All countries	"	210 900	262 100	328 700

Tourism (continued)		1992	1993	1994
Tourist accommodation —				
Hotels motels and guest houses —				
Establishments at 31 Dec	No.	450	457	464
Guest rooms at 31 Dec	"	17 507	17 749	17 516
Room occupancy rate	per cent	48	50	54
Guest arrivals	'000	2 056.0	2 216.9	2 332.0
Average length of stay	days	2.0	2.4	2.4
Takings from accommodation	\$'000	201 858	221 490	253 448
Caravan parks —				
Establishments at 31 Dec	No.	307	312	315
Total capacity at 31 Dec	"	28 130	28 592	29 625
Site occupancy rate	per cent	35	39	39
Sites permanently occupied at 31 Dec	No.	4 705	4 873	4 957
Guest arrivals	'000	1 216.0	1 191.8	1 289.0
Takings from accommodation	\$'000	41 698	44 898	49 018
Transport		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
New motor vehicles registered —				
Motor cars and station wagons		45 567	45 589	51 947
Motor cycles	"	2 117	2 103	2 344
Other	"	11 556	15 486	12 952
Total	"	59 240	63 178	67 243
Vehicles on register at 30 June —				
Motor cars and station wagons		803 728	827 837	855 129
Motor cycles	"	37 894	37 078	37 440
Other	"	269 408	277 466	286 243
Total	"	1 111 030	1 142 381	1 178 812



# Western Australia in relation to Australia

		Date or period	Western Australia	Per cent of Australian total
Area	'000 sq km	..	2 526	33.0
Coastline	km	..	12 500	34.0
Demography —				
Estimated resident population	'000	30 Jun 1995	1 731.7	9.6
Births	No.	1994	25 138	9.8
Deaths (including infant deaths)	"	"	10 293	8.2
Marriages	"	"	10 366	9.3
Divorces	"	"	5 024	10.3
Labour force —				
Employed persons	'000	Aug 1995	826	10.1
Unemployed persons	"	"	60	8.3
Agriculture —				
Gross value	\$m	1993-94	3 365	14.3
Area of establishments (d)	'000 ha	"	114 444	24.4
Wheat for grain (d) —				
Area	'000 ha	"	3 852	46.0
Production	'000 t	"	6 689	40.6
Wool	"	"	180	26.3
Manufacturing —				
Establishments	No.	1992-93	3 384	8.9
Persons employed	'000	"	62.3	7.2
Foreign imports	\$m	1994-95	5 799	7.8
Foreign exports	"	"	16 394	24.5

(a) Prior to 1991-92 was Unemployment and Job Search Allowance (b) Includes refinancing  
(c) Price for December 1994 relates to eggs with a minimum nett weight of 50 grams (d) Excludes details for establishments with estimated value of agricultural operations less than \$22,500.

**Symbols:** r figure or series revised since previous issue  
p preliminary - figures or series subject to revision  
n.y.a. not yet available  
.. not applicable  
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**Cover:** The front and back cover features the Illiyame, Red Cap Gum (*Eucalyptus erythrocorys* F. Muell.) a small native tree naturally inhabiting a restricted area in the Irwin River - Shark Bay coastal districts of Western Australia.

**Designer:** Martin Thompson

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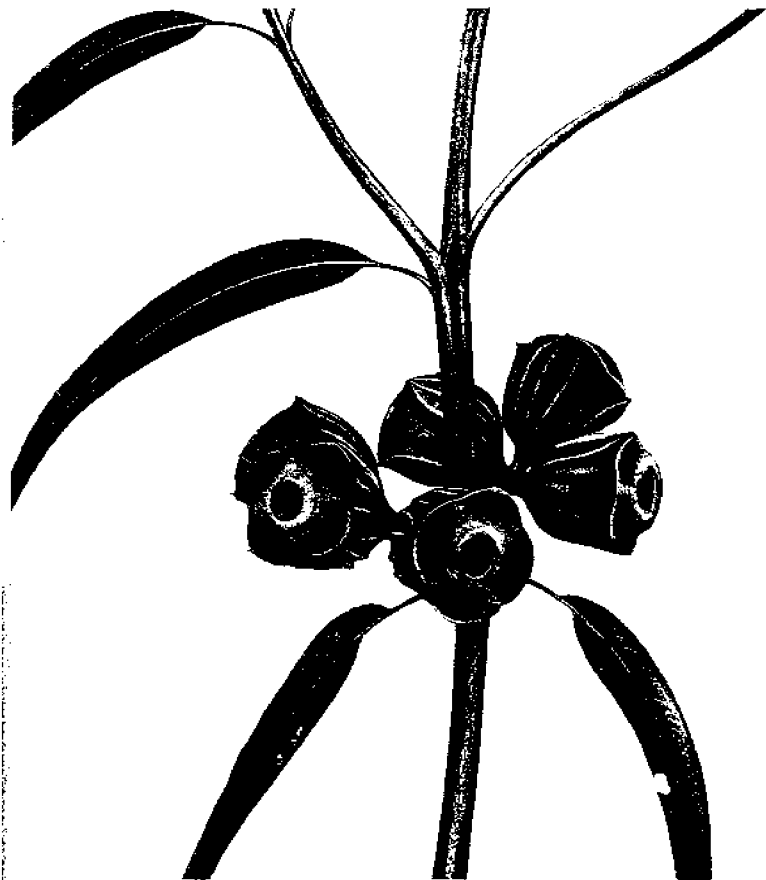
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